does not arise out of this. Yes, Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, would you permit supplementaries on the problems of cantonments as such or only on roads and civic amenities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know, I have already disallowed Mr. Jogi's question.

Yes. Mr. Radhakishan Malaviya.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय : मान्यवर, इस प्रश्न के संबंध में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि महू छावनी हमारे देश की बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण छावनी एरिया है । इसके क्षेत्रफल को बढ़ाने के लिए महू के आस-पास के कुछ गांवों की जमीन इस समय अधिग्रहीत की जा रही है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो भूमि किसानों की अधिग्रहीत की जा रही है उसका मुआवजा किस दर पर दिया जाएगा एवं जिन गांवों को वहां से उठाया जा रहा है, उन गांव वालों को बसाने के लिए सरकार ने कौन-सी योजना बनाई है ?

श्री अरूण सिंह : जहां तक एक्वीजीशन का सवाल है . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any question on acquisition because that part of the question does not relate to roads and amenities. If you have anything to add, you may do so.

SHRI ARUN SINGH: He has asked about acquisition and compensation to be paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Gold and silver prices at dizzy Heights

*230. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the prices of gold and silver have touched dizzy heights recently;

(b) if so, what are the current prices of these metals and who do these compare with the prices during the last five years;

(c) what are the reasons for the recent spurt in their prices; and

(d) whether Government are taking any steps to stabilise the prices of these metals and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The average prices of gold and silver in Bombay and in international markets during the years 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and as on 27-2-1987 are given below:

Year	Gold (Rs. per 10 gms.)		Silver (Rs. per kg.)	
	Bombay	London	Bombay	London
1982	1708	1149	2673	2422
1983	1821	1381	3422	3726
1984	1958	1312	3514	2957
1985	2106	1261	3880	2439
1986	2211	1392	4106	2295
27-2-1987	2616	1705	4594	2300

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chaturanan Mishra.

(c) The general reasons for increase in prices of these metals are—

1. Seasonal demand on account of marriages etc.

2. Shortage of ready stock.

3. Strict vigil on Indo-Pak border.

In respect of gold, the increase in price can also be atributed to—

(i) Higher overseas prices of gold which have partly aided the sentiment.

(ii) The unrest and strike in South Africa as well as to the fulling dollar value which has increased overseas demand of gold. This in turn, has affected the local prices in India.

(iii) Fall in contraband arrivals; and

(iv) Increase in quantum of gold seizures.

In respcet of silver, increase in price can also be attributed to increased speculative support in view of acute shortage of ready stock.

(d) Gold and silver are not essential commodities, and they are possessed by a small minority in society and their possession does not contribute to the economic development of the country. Government has, therefore, not found it necessary to take steps to regulate the prices of these metails or to make available larger supplies to meet the demand. Government has appointed a Working Group to go into all aspects of the gold policy and to make recommendatios. Specific measures will be considered on receipt of its recommendations.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, अपने देश में सोने और चांदी का जो मूल्य हैं, जो सरकार ने विवरण दिया है उसमें चांदी के मुत्तलिक बम्बई और लंदन के मार्केट में करीब-करीब दुगुने का फर्क है, डबल का फ़र्क है । सोना डबल तो नहीं है लेकिन डेढ़ गुना के लगभग है । सरकार की ओर से बताया गया है कि शादियां बहुत ज्यादा हो रही हैं । बराबर शादियां होती हैं, इसकी कोई बात नहीं है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : ज्यादा सोना मांग रहे हैं ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मैं उस पर आ रहा हूं और मेरा भी यही ख्याल हैं । सभापति महोदय, अभी कुछ देर पहले ब्लैक मनी के बारे में काफी प्रश्नोत्तर हुआ । मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह सही बात है कि जो ब्लैक मनी है उसको सोने में परिवर्तित करने का लोग धंधा करते हैं और फिर उसके जेवर बनाकर विदेशों में और भी ज्यादा धन जमा करते हैं । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह कारण है जिसके चलते ऐसा हो रहा है ? क्या सरकार इसकी जांच करायेगी ? जोकि इस तरह की बातें हो रही हैं ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, it is true that this is one of the methods of converting black money into jewellary thereby possessing gold. But action has been taken. The seizures which have been done clearly show that that the Government has been taking action and in fact because of the effective action which Government has taken, the seizure of gold has increased. The details of the seizure I will furnish to the hon. Member.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, सीजर ज्यादा हुआ है, इसका एक यह भी कारण हो सकता है कि पहले से ज्यादा चोरियां हो रही हैं और इसलिए आप थोड़ा ज्यादा पकड़ रहे हैं । केवल यह कहना कि सीजर ज्यादा हो रहा है इसलिए कि आप एफेक्टिवली काम कर रहे हैं यह सफिसियंट यहीं है । मैंने पहले प्रश्न में पूछा था कि क्या इसकी सर्वांगीण जांच करवायेंगे कि यह ज्यादा क्यों हो रहा है ?

दूसरा मेरा इससे संबंधित प्रश्न यह है कि अगर यह लाभदायक योजना है अपने देश में जेवर बनवाकर विदेश में भेजना

तो सरकार ही क्यों न ज्यादा सोना देकर और जेवरात बनवाकर विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन करती है ? इन दोनों पहलुओं पर सरकार क्या विचार करेगी ताकि हमा सुनार लोग जो अन-इम्प्लाइड हो गये हैं, उनको बड़ी मार पड़ी थी मोरारजी देसाई के जमाने में . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I not find both the Members as well as Ministers are unprepared, because you put a question on the relative prices of gold and silver in the domestic market and external market and now you are asking whether Government wants to export manufactured ornaments.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The reason for that is that it has been stated that one of the reasons is that black money is being changed into ornaments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That he has answered.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: So my second supplementary was, here in India they bring it and change it into ornaments. So arising out of that I asked, if that is the situation, then why the Government itself should not bring it and convert it into foreign exchange?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will be very lax now because we have gone so many questions and many people have not got...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, I will answer that. The suggestion of the hon. Member is very good. In fact, we have started implementing this much more half way through last year. We have given a number of incentives for jewellery export and for special import of gold, so that it is re-exported as jewellery. We have already taken many steps and it is giving a lot of employment to many people.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एक तो गोल्ड की जो कीमत है 10 वर्षों के बाद भी अगर बैंक में जमा करो तब भी उसकी कीमत उतनी ही रहती है इस कारण भी ब्लैक मनी को गोल्ड के रूप में बदला जाता है । जैसे कि आपके उत्तर में है सरकार ने इसके लिए एक कमेटी बना दी है यानी एक कार्यकारी दल का गठन किया गया है मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इसकी रिपोर्ट कब तक आएगी ? दूसरा इसका पहलू आर्थिक रूप से यह है कि सोना ब्लैक मनी के रूप में शिफ्ट करता है, रुपए में परिवर्तित नहीं होता । पैसे के रूप में यदि यह बैंक में जमा हो तो इसका आर्थिक उपयोग हो सकता है । यह दल जिसका गठन किया गया है, हिन्दुस्तान में सोना जमा हो कर जेवर के रूप में और सालिड सोने के रूप में जो पद्धति है इस पद्धति को परिवर्तित करने के लिए क्या सरकार कोई निश्चित उपाय करेगी । जब तक यह उपाय नहीं होगा तब तक विवाह में सोने की मांग बढ़ेगी क्योंकि आबादी भी बढ़ी है इसलिए सोने की डिमांड भी बढ़ेगी । हिन्दुस्तान में जो पद्धति अब चल रही है विवाह शादियों में हर बाप हर ससुर लड़की को सोने के जेवर देता है । जब-जब जेवरों की मांग होती है तब-तब जेवर बनाने वालों को भी काम मिलता है । लेकिन जेवर देने वालों की हालत खराब हो जाती है । इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार जल्दी कुछ करे और लोगों की पद्धति बदले, इसके लिए भी कुछ अवश्य करे . . . **(व्यवधान)**

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बात कही है लेकिन इसके लिए सरकार के बजाय समाजसेवी संस्थाओं और समाज-सुधारकों को आगे आना चाहिये और सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण में परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है । अगर सरकार कानून बना भी देगी जैसे कि दहेज विरोधी कानून बनाया गया है तब भी जब तक दृष्टिकोण में परिवर्तन नहीं होगा उस में लोग हेराफेरी करते हैं चुपके से दहेज देते हैं क्योंकि सम्मान के ऊपर सोने के आभूषण की प्रतिष्ठा को लगा देते हैं । यह एक सामाजिक प्रश्न है और समाज सुधारकों को इस मामले में

ज्यादा सामने आना चाहिए ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आपने जिस दल का गठन किया है वह कब किया है, वह कौन है, उसने क्या किया है, क्या उसकी रिपोर्ट आ गई है . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the working group headed by Dr. Rangarajan is looking into the whole policy. The committee headed by Shri Dutt has not yet submitted its report.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: What are its terms of reference? When was it set up?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, regarding gold and silver I find that between 1982 and 1986 there had been a wide difference between the London and Bombay prices. The year 1982 had started with a difference of Rs. 658 in gold and in 1987 I find that the difference is Rs. 908. So also for silver. It started with a difference of Rs. 251 in 1982 and in 1987 the difference seems to be Rs. 2294. I wold like to know from the honourable Minister why the differnece is increasing and the reasons for the same. Two reasons had been given. One is the higher overseas price of gold which has partly aided the sentiments. The other is the unrest and strikes in South Africa. Both should affect the London prices as well as the Bombay prices. One more thing is, even though gold is not an essential commodity, almost all middleclass people, at least for *mangalasutra*, want gold. I want to know whether the Government will think of dual pricing of gold or rationing of gold for the middleclass people.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, about the last suggestion of the honourable Member, there is no such thing at present. We will keep in mind the suggestion which has been put forward by the honourable Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You missed the other question. Can you explain why the rise in prices of gold and silver in India is proportionately higher than the rise in prices of gold and silver in the London market?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is because of the demand. There is a craze for gold in India... (*Interruptions*)...As my honourable colleague has stated earlier, it is a social problem and we have to educate the people. Honourable Members know that it is not an essential commodity to control its price. So far as the demand is concerned, if at all we have to meet the demand, then we will have to import gold. Now here we have to preserve precious foreign exchange and so we are not in a position to do that.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, the Minister in his reply has stated that gold is possessed by a small minority in society and their possession does not contribute to the economic development of the country. Sir, this is a very wrong notion. In our country particularly gold is a precious metal as far as the womenfolk are concerned. Mr. Swaminathan did put it. I want to elaborate it. Marriage is a contract in the western society, but it is a solemn ceremony emotionally binding the partners throughout the life here. Even a poor man wants a little bit of gold for the marriage ceremony. We call it "tali" in Tamil Nadu. Here it is called "Mangalsutra". Even a rickshaw-puller tries to get a little bit of gold for the marriage ceremony. Also, it is a form of saving. That is why people give more importance to gold. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister whether he will put this point of view to the working group which has been mentioned by him.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Definitely we will convey the suggestions made by the hon. Member to the committee, and we will ask it to examine them.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, there is plenty of gold in Tamil Nadu. We are grateful to you for allowing some Members from North, some Members who are not from Tamil Nadu, to put questions on gold. We can only ask questions, Sir. May I know from the Minister whether there is any nexus in the value of rupee in terms of foreign exchange and the zooming gold prices, and if it be so, what measures are being taken to strengthen the rupee because that alone can be an efficacious thing?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The hon. Member who is an expert in taxation has made one point. So far as this aspect is concerned, this will be examined. We have noted your suggestion, and we will examine.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, why is there so much emphasis on black money only? What is the reason for this? Why should I not suggest to the hon. Minister that the very investment habit of common man we have in this country also could be a good reason because people think that gold could be a better investment? Our country has increased the saving habit. People save also, but they want to invest the saving towards gold. Why can we not think of better investment avenues such as the mutual fund that the UTI was running and the State Bank of India schemes suggested by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the Budget itself? So, why can't we? The people of this country have a habit of saving, and they want to have investment. Why can we not have better schemes so that the demand may not rise, the price of gold may not go high and in comparison to other countries there may not be hike in the price?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, there are the Gold Control Rules also and there is the gold control policy also. So far as the undivided family is concerned, one can have gold ornaments up to the extent of 4 kg., without declaration that is about 500 sovereigns or 4000 grammes. And so far as the individual is concerned, one can have gold ornaments up to the extent of 2 kg. without declaration. The suggestions made by the hon. Member will be kept in view, and we will examine them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have all become assurances.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to know from the Prime Minister that the Government is encouraging export of jewellery. In this connection...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Four kg. is a wrong figure.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I think 400 sovereigns will be 320 grammes, and the hon. Minister says that one can hold 4 kg. It is a wrong figure.

SHRI T. R. BALU: He is giving a wrong figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will have an opportunity to correct his answer later.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: He can correct it now.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: May I know from the Government whether it is in favour of opening more jewellery export centres and how many jewellery export centres are going to be opened in the near future?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, I require a separate notice for this.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: It has been said that there is a fall in the contraband arrivals. I would like to know what is the estimated smuggling in this country. As one hon. Member has enquired is it because the Rupee has strengthened that there is a fall in the arrival?

would like to know what exactly is the reason. What is the estimated smuggling? Is it because the enforcement of the customs authorities has improved, that there is a fall? I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten me on this.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I am not in a position to assess the amount of gold that is smuggled out and also the value of that.

*231. [*The questioners (Shri Ashwani Kumar and Shri Lal K. Advani) were absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 43 infra].

Implementation of the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules

*232. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Exporters Association has given a representation against stalling of the implementation of the "The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 1971" in the refund of amount of central excise duty and custom duties levied on raw materials used in production of the item exported; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to speedily implement the said Rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A cyclostyled representation addressed to an Hon'ble Member of Parliament by an Association under the name and style of Indian Exporters' Association, A-Block, Defence Colony was brought to the notice of the Government in December, 1986.

There has been no stalling in the matter of implementation of "The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 1971". With effect form 1-6-86, it had been provided that Brand Rate applications should be made prior to the date of actual exports. Many represeneations were received against this rule. It has now been provided (2-2-87) that such applications can be filed within 30 days after the date of export. This time-limit for making the applications can be relaxed by the Government by another 30 days on sufficient cause shown.

डा० बापू कालदाते : सभापति महोदयक यह हमारी समझ में नहीं आता है कि पहले नियम ही ऐसे बना दें कि जिससे तकलीफ हो जाए, फिर लोग इसके खिलाफ आपके पास आ जाएं और फिर आप उसको दुरुस्त करें। अब जून, 1986 में जो एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में रूल्ज बनाये हैं, उसमें आपने यह कहा कि ब्रांड रेटस जो होत हैं, आपका जो कुछ भी माल है उसको भेजने के पहले आज उनको लिख दें। फिर आप के पास शिकायतें आने लगीं। फरवरी में आपने उसको दुरुस्त किया। मुझे लगता है कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन मशीनरी में कोई ऐसे लोग हैं जिनको दिक्कत करने से कोई फायदा होता होगा। मेरा सवाल इतना ही है कि जो आपने जनवरी में नियम में परिवर्तन कर दिया है, यह जो भी सुझाव आपके पास आये हैं, उसको मद्देनजर रखते हुये किया है, और क्या आप मानते हैं कि इन नियमों के कारण जो शिकायतें आपके पास अभी तक आई, वह शिकायतें नहीं आ सकेंगी।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Because of the representation made to us the rules have been changed and the benefits have been given. As per this in the case of Brand Rate applications will now be submitted after 30 days and the date could be extended also on the merits of each case by another thirty days. This decision has been taken after taking into consideration all the difficulties faced by the exporters.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: So, there will be no difficulty?